

## **EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 25 STATE ANIMAL RESPONSE PLAN**

- PRIMARY AGENCIES:** Washington State Department of Agriculture  
Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Washington State Office of the Attorney General  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Washington State Department of Health  
Washington State Military Department  
Emergency Management Division  
National Guard  
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services  
Washington State Patrol  
Washington State University, Cooperative Extension Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Veterinary Services  
Regional Emergency Animal Disease Eradication Organization  
Western Region  
National Veterinary Services Laboratory  
Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory  
American Red Cross  
Washington Animal Control Association  
Washington State Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory  
Washington State Veterinary Medical Association  
Washington Veterinary Medical Technicians Association  
Associations, Professional, Volunteer, and Trade Organizations

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Emergency Support Function (ESF) - State Animal Response Plan (SARP) and attached appendices is to provide guidelines for rapid response to events affecting the health, safety, and welfare of human beings and animals. Veterinary medicine and animal care activities in the mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activity phases of emergency management include, but are not limited to, small and large animal care, facility usage, and displaced pet/livestock, wildlife, and exotic animal assistance.

### **II. POLICIES**

- A. The Washington State Departments of Agriculture (WSDA) and Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) represent animal health concerns of the state and maintain liaison with the emergency management and environmental protection agencies; departments and/or agencies that represent veterinary medicine, public health, agriculture, wildlife, non-native wildlife, and humane societies and animal control agencies.
- B. The coordinating body responsible for planning all animal response and recovery activities for the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan*

(CEMP) will be the WSDA and the Washington Animal Response Management (WARM) Team described in Appendix 2.

- C. The State Veterinarian will serve as permanent chair to the WARM Team but may designate a Veterinary Coordinator in his/her place.
- D. The State Veterinarian or Assistant State Veterinarian will be the Veterinary Coordinator for the Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Appendix 1.

### **III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

Animal health events that overwhelm local jurisdiction resources, and are of such a scale that existing agreements may not provide an adequate response, are to be acted upon under the coordination of the WSDA, acting consistently within its statutory mandate, and under the coordination authority of the state EMD. Recovery and recovery activities will be consistent with the CEMP. Animal health care responders who meet training and qualification standards established by the WARM Team will be designated as emergency workers by the state EMD. Response and recovery activities will be governed by procedures established in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 with the WSDA responsible for their implementation.

### **IV. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The WSDA and WDFW are the primary organizations for coordination and direction and control of animal health care services and allied associations and agencies assisting in emergencies and disasters, and are responsible for the following:

- 1. Communications with recognized animal health care providers, and agencies.
- 2. Appointments of the Veterinary Coordinator.
- 3. Coordination of emergency management activities with state EMD, Department of Health (DOH), and local jurisdictions.
- 4. Coordination of multi-state event response and recovery with other state Veterinary Medical Associations and appropriate emergency management agencies.
- 5. Maintain a list of State Field Veterinarians, Washington State Veterinary Medical Association's (WSVMA) Emergency County Veterinary Coordinators, County Animal Emergency Coordinator, Emergency Field Veterinary Technicians and Emergency Exotic Wildlife Field Personnel, and their alternates.
- 6. Activation of the telephone tree of emergency resources, when necessary.
- 7. Coordination of all press releases and public service announcements with the state EMD Public Information Officer (PIO).
- 8. Assistance in coordination of donations of animal food, feed, supplies, and resources.

9. Maintenance of State Agency Emergency/Disaster Liaison Coordinator's communication with regulatory agencies.
10. Determining which animal health care personnel are qualified to enter the area of the event.

## **V. DIRECTION AND CONTROL**

- A. The initial point-of-contact is state EMD who will contact the WSDA and/or WDFW. Thereafter, the WSDA, through the Veterinary Coordinator, will coordinate activities with the recognized animal health care responders.
- B. During times of federal assistance when the resources of the state have been exhausted or overwhelmed, the Regional Veterinary Activities Commander (ReVAC) of the American Veterinary Medical Association Emergency Response Force is the liaison coordinator between local jurisdiction animal health care responders and Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams of the United States Public Health Service. The ReVAC will coordinate animal health care activities with the State Veterinarian's office within the WSDA.

## **VI. CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT**

During state emergencies or disasters the line of succession for the Veterinary Coordinator will be, respectively, the Washington State Veterinarian, the Washington State Assistant State Veterinarian, Area Veterinarians, and other WSDA personnel as designated by the Director.

## **VII. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS**

The WSDA assigns a State Agency Emergency/Disaster Liaison Coordinator who will serve at the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) when activated for exercises, emergencies, or disasters.

## **VIII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

The WARM Team will annually review this ESF to ensure that necessary updates and revisions are prepared, coordinated, and submitted, based on experiences from exercises, emergencies, and disasters.

## **IX. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS**

See CEMP Basic Plan, Appendix 4.